

Minutes of a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student
Life Held on
SEPTEMBER 19, 1997
8:30AM, HALL 769 SGW CAMPUS

Present: Mr. Roger Côté, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Dr. S.M. Graub, Ms A. Kerby, Ms A. Ghadban, Ms M. West, Ms C. Hughes, Ms L. Lipscombe, Mr. R. MacIver, Professor B. Barbieri, Mr. Zarins, Mr. A. Feldman, Ms C. Cogger, Ms C. Blackwood, Mr. J. Edwards, Mr. D. Hinton, Ms T. Ryan, Mr. W. Kennedy, Mr. B. Barun, Ms C. Boujaklian, Ms K. Hedrich, Ms. Beaudoin

Absent with Regrets: Ms J. Brathwaite, Mr. M. Bujold

Delegates: Ms A. Siano replaced Ms N. Torbit, Ms I. Sendek replaced Dr. R. Bonin, Ms C. Hedrich replaced Ms. A. Vroom

Guests: Ms G. Pannetta

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Côté drew Council's attention to the changes in the format of the agenda. As agreed last Spring, one representative from the group of permanent observers will make a presentation at each meeting. Instead of longer presentations we would ask each presenter to limit themselves to a 10 minute presentation which will be followed by a question and answer period. Also added to the agenda as a standing item will be a report from the Chair of the Recreation & Athletics Board, Ms Kerby. Mr. Feldman asked that the items "Update on the Centennial Move" be added to the agenda under Business arising from the Minutes and "Student Representation" be added to New Business. A motion to approve the agenda with the additions was made by Ms Cogger, seconded by Mr. Zarins. The motion was passed.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Côté welcomed Council to the first CCSL meeting of the academic year. He apologized for not joining Council for the orientation breakfast and thanked Dr. Graub and Ms Kerby for hosting the Orientation breakfast. Mr. Côté explained he has been involved with the special task force mandated by the Minister of Education to examine student loan indebtedness problems and to recommend changes to help students better cope with their repayment obligations. He will circulate this report to CCSL as soon as it is available.

Mr. Côté took this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Keith Lowther who served on CCSL for several years as the GSA representative. Mr Lowther passed away in August. He will be remembered as a compassionate and caring individual whose interest in student life was matched by the vigor with which he engaged everyone he came into contact with. A memorial service will be held on Monday, October 20th in the Loyola Chapel.

Mr. Côté also informed Council that Ms Torbit, Director of Health Services, is on sick leave. Until her return sometime in October, Ms Siano will represent Health Services. Ms Brathwaite has been appointed Acting Director of Financial Aid and will take up her duties at the end of October when she returns from sick leave.

Written reports from Directors will begin to be circulated at the next CCSL meeting.

Mr. Côté informed Council of the establishment by the Rector of an advisory Task Force on the Revitalization of the Loyola Campus. The Task Force will be consulting with the community and he encouraged students, staff and faculty to voice their concerns and their opinions. He felt that this is an excellent opportunity for CCSL to present their views.

The University Space Planning Committee has been struck but has not as yet met. Mr. Côté confirmed there will be student representation on this committee.

Council was also informed that the deadline to nominate students for the Brian T. Counihan Scholarship has been extended to September 30th.

Mr. Côté congratulated all Student Associations as well as the University Orientation Coordinators for outstanding programmes that contributed positively in welcoming all students to the University. Mr. Côté reiterated he is looking forward to the year ahead and to working with Council towards the common goal of enhancing the quality of student life at the University.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MEETING OF MAY 23, 1997

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Feldman, seconded by Ms West. The Motion was carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) CSU Audio Visual Centre

Mr. Côté drew Council's attention to the document distributed. Ms Cogger said she would speak to the issue on behalf of Ms Aldworth. She said the A.V. Centre has been open for business and has proved very popular. Diverse groups such as Student Safety Patrol, Urban Studies and the Armenian Students Association have all availed themselves of this service. The security issue and Loyola availability, two of the concerns raised last year, are addressed in the document. Mr. Feldman made the following motion:

BIR that \$2,050 of the CCSL Speakers Fund be allocated to the CSU Audio Visual Centre as outlined in the proposal presented to CCSL.

It was felt, however, after some discussion that Council should have time to thoroughly read the document before voting on it. With this thought in mind, Mr. Zarins made a motion to table the discussion and vote on the CSU Audio Visual Centre at the next CCSL meeting. The motion to table was carried with one abstention and no opposition.

b) Update on Co-Op Situation

Mr. Côté informed Council that the University responded to the co-op situation as soon as the government gave the go ahead to Concordia's proposal. The student response has been very positive and appreciative. Mr. Côté indicated that Ms Lipscombe would provide more details in the Bookstore presentation.

c) Update on Centennial Move

Mr. Feldman briefly spoke about the negotiations over the summer concerning the Centennial Building and the Campus Centre. He was happy to report that CSU and the Vice Rector Services finally came to an agreement. CC 4 Music modules will move to the basement of the Campus Centre. CFly will move to CC4. The Concordian Newspaper will move temporarily to CC4. Current negotiations concerning SWAP will continue, but there will be no more moves until agreements are signed. Mr. Côté said that the Vice Rector Services confirmed there will be no imputation charges to the Campus Centre for 1997-98.

It was also noted that at the May 23rd CCSL meeting, it had been resolved that CCSL supported in principle that student academic associations be housed in or near the faculty/departments. As the Faculty of Arts & Science is the only faculty that has not provided space for academic student associations, the Vice Rector, Services will take up this issue with the Faculty.

5. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Ms Cogger wished to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with Orientation. This year's Orientation was a great success and in large part due to the cooperation of the University.

Mr. Hinton asked about the Financial Aid new numbering system. He felt it is not working as anticipated and that the process is more inefficient than before. Mr. Côté agreed the system has been problematic. A discussion ensued on the various problems students were faced with. Suggestions were made as how to remedy the situation. Ms Kerby mentioned the triage system. This entails a staff person working through the lineups which can result in 10-15% reduction. Ms Blackwood asked about an appointment system. Mr. Côté responded that when Financial Aid in the past had taken appointments, the no-shows were about 50%. Ms Beaudoin added that she felt the numbering system was working well until the "crunch". Mr. Kennedy asked whether it would be possible to stagger the deadlines so that the "crunch" would not all be at the same time. As well he questioned whether the government loans/bursaries could not be direct deposited to the students' Bank. Mr. Côté indicated that option may be available in about 12 months. Mr. Hinton suggested that for the two week crunch period, the numbering system could be located in the atrium of the Library Building. Mr. Feldman suggested that perhaps looking at the government offices' approach to lineups would be a good idea. He specifically mentioned the License Bureau near the Beaudry Metro and the Health Insurance Office near President Kennedy as two examples of efficient and reasonably quick service. Mr. Côté reiterated that although this system had been purchased to improve the service, this was the system's first semester in use. He felt it was necessary to communicate to the students the other options available to them in order to better serve the September volume. Perhaps an information desk set-up for peak periods only would alleviate some of the pressure. Mr. Côté assured Council that these issues are a priority and thanked everyone for their suggestions.

Ms West asked if everyone was aware of the Arts and Science position paper presented by Dr. Singer. This document proposes changes to the entire Arts & Science Faculty. She had some concerns on this issue especially in connection with the Colleges and how this may affect them.

Dr. Graub informed Council that the Smart Start Program was very successful last year. This pro-active program targets new students and commences again September 22. She encouraged Council to publicize the program within their areas. She also stated that a Computerized Career Lab is now in operation which among other things offers a search of what jobs are available in any particular area of interest.

Mr. Hinton asked whether Counselling Development offered Math Workshops again this year as he did not see the service advertised in their brochure. Dr. Graub affirmed the workshops were being offered but agreed that more effective ways of advertising should be looked at.

Ms Kerby reminded Council that the "Concordia Shuffle" was taking place on Friday, September 22 and encouraged all to participate in this fundraising event for student scholarships and awards.

Ms Siano informed Council that there would no longer be evening hours at the SGW Health Services. The Loyola Information and Referral Centre was open for business.

Ms Hedrich informed Council that the dates for Concordia Homecoming are October 16-18. She reminded Council that Homecoming is open to the whole community and encouraged everyone to get involved.

Mr. Feldman asked if the Directors could prepare a report on what recommendations from the Student Services Review have been implemented. The Directors responded that they felt that issue had been dealt with. However they did agree perhaps summary notes on the changes could be useful. Mr. Côté suggested such reports could be presented at the November meeting.

6. REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

a. Presentation by Ms Tremblay, Coordinator, Centre for Native Students. Ms Tremblay spoke eloquently about the difficulties faced by our native students. They can experience not only financial hardships, but culture shock, isolation and discrimination. Using a native story as an illustration she explained how the centre provides what these students require in order to adjust to university life. As the native population is one of the youngest in Canada, more and more native students are attending University. Often they are the first generation of their family to attend university. The Centre offers support services, computer labs, study space, listening programs, and a lounge. She encouraged the community to become aware of native issues and to make

use of the documentation and information available at the centre (2110 Mackay, 3rd floor).

b. Presentation by Ms Lipscombe, Director, Concordia Bookstores. Ms Lipscombe gave a brief history of the Bookstore. Concordia can be proud of the fact that the Bookstore is working at same 20% margin for the last 30 years. She sympathized with the students over the high cost of books but reiterated that the Publishers set the prices not the Bookstore. In June 1996 The Computer Store (Cencon) became the responsibility of the Bookstore. It was successful in its first year of operation. Ms Lipscombe briefly outlined the Co-Op situation. When the Co-Op went bankrupt in April, there were about 75 Concordia students who had paid for a computer with the computer loan but never received the equipment. Although the University had no legal obligation to the creditors and was not in a position to help everyone, it was sensitive to the predicament of the students who were required to buy their computer from the Co-op. Over the summer, Mr. Emond, Dr. Boisvert, Mr. Freedman, Mr. Côté and Ms Lipscombe met to find a solution. After discussions with the Quebec government, it was decided that the Concordia Computer Store would be granted accreditation by the Ministry of Education thus enabling the store to accept the student loans for microcomputer purchases for Concordia students only. Students who satisfied the criteria, would be provided, free of charge, with equipment comparable in specifications and functionality to what they ordered. To date 50 students have met with the Computer Store. These students have indicated their satisfaction and are appreciative of the university's efforts on their behalf. Ms Lipscombe drew Council's attention to the document submitted to Council which explains the policy in full detail. Mr. Feldman congratulated the University on the package. Mr. Hinton asked if there were price differences between the two locations of the Computer Store (LB Building and the old Co-op Space). Ms Lipscombe indicated that the prices were the same, but the Computer Store in the Lb Building carries some more expensive lines of computer equipment. She reiterated that their prices are very competitive compared to other markets. There are of course obligations to be met, but the prices are comparable to the Co-op or better. Mr. Côté thanked Ms Lipscombe for her presentation and especially for her hard work on the "bail-out package" for the students affected by the Co-Op bankruptcy.

He also thanked Ms Tremblay for a most informative presentation on the Centre for Native Education.

7. Report from the Chair, Ms Ann Kerby, Recreation & Athletic Board

Ms Kerby said the first meeting of the board had been on September 17th. As Mr. Len Pemberton is no longer at the University, there is a student vacancy. Mr. Feldman is the student at large. It was unfortunate Mr. Emond was unable to attend as the Board had questions for the Vice Rector Services. The issue of the philosophy and the funding of Athletics is critical to further development of the department. Ms Kerby indicated that the minutes of the meeting will be forwarded to the Chair of CCSL for information. The membership of the committee will be appended to the minutes.

8. New Business

Mr. Feldman expressed concern that student representation on committees seems to often be an after thought. He asked whether it would be appropriate if the Dean of Students were to approach relevant bodies that create Task Forces, Ad hoc committees, etc and remind them of the importance of student representation. The proper procedure to ensure student representation is to address their requests to CSU. Mr. Côté agreed to look into the ways and means of ensuring student representation on university/faculty/department committees, task forces, etc.

9. Termination:

The meeting was terminated at 12:30 on motion by Ms Hughes, seconded by Ms Kerby.